Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Gross Domestic Product (1992$ millions)	August 792,610	0.4%	4.4%	Canadian GDP rose 0.4% in August, led by utilities (1.4%) and finance and insurance (1.3%). Decreased sales of computer equipment and software led to a 0.7% decline in wholesale trade, while higher output of electrical and electronic equipment led to a 0.8% increase in manufacturing. Total mining output fell by 1.0%, due to equipment and personnel shortages, while crude petroleum output fell because of a scheduled platform maintenance shutdown in eastern Canada.
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	October			The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. The index fell for New Brunswick (-1.5) and Prince Edward Island (-0.4%) in October. British Columbia (4.1%), Manitoba (2.4%), Quebec (2.4%) and Alberta (1.8%) had the largest gains.
Alberta	171	1.8%	18.8%	
Canada	178	2.3%	8.5%	
Average Weekly Earnings (S.A.)	August			In August, average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta rose by 0.4% over the previous month. Prince Edward Island (2.0%) had the highest increase, followed by New Brunswick (1.4%) and Ontario (0.7%). Alberta had the second highest level of AWE among provinces behind Ontario ($674.26).
Alberta	645.84	0.4%	4.0%	
Canada	630.37	0.6%	3.0%	
Unemployment Rate	October			The U.S. unemployment rate in October remained unchanged at 3.9% from September, and is down 0.2% from October 1999, led by strong job growth in the service industry sector. Average hourly earnings rose 0.4% in October, compared to a 0.2% increase in August.
United States	3.9%	0.0%	-0.2%	